

SENATE BILL 1955
By Fowler

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36,
relative to costs of mediation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-6-413(b), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(b)

(1) For an indigent person, the cost of the mediation and education seminar shall be based on a sliding scale based on a person's ability to pay;

(2) The cost of mediation and education shall be paid from all available federal, state or local funds;

(3) The state treasurer is authorized and directed to establish within the general fund a fund known as the divorcing parent education and mediation fund;

(4) Revenue collected in accordance with subdivision (b)(2) shall be deposited into the divorcing parent education and mediation fund. Moneys collected under subdivision (b)(2) during the pilot project and not expended shall be deposited into the divorcing parent education and mediation fund. Moneys in the fund shall not revert to the general fund of the state, but shall remain available and are to be collected exclusively for providing education and mediation services, and the administration costs of this program; and

(5) Moneys in the divorcing parent education and mediation fund shall be allocated annually and distributed to or for the benefit of each judicial district to provide education and mediation for indigent parents, and administration of these services, in such manner as determined by the administrative office of the courts.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.